

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6897

BILL NUMBER: HB 1630

DATE PREPARED: Dec 18, 1998

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Hunting and fishing by veterans with disabilities.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

STATE IMPACT	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
State Revenues		(22,403)	(22,403)
State Expenditures			
Net Increase (Decrease)		(22,403)	(22,403)

Summary of Legislation: This bill entitles a military veteran who has a service connected disability to reduced fees for hunting and fishing licenses.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill reduces fees for military veterans with service-connected disabilities. Fees for resident yearly fishing, hunting, and combination fishing *and* hunting licenses would all be reduced to \$2.75. The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that there are currently 43,844 veterans in Indiana who have service-related disabilities.(Estimates of the number of veterans who fish and hunt in the following projections were calculated using the percentage of the state population that obtains licenses for these activities. The estimate of Indiana's total population of 5,864,108 was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau as updated July 1, 1997.)

The Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports that 416,568 resident yearly fishing-only licenses were sold for 1997. This figure represents approximately 7% of Indiana's population. If the same percentage of veterans with service-connected disabilities obtain hunting licenses, 3,069 individuals would be eligible for the proposed discount. However, individuals over the age of 65 are exempt from purchasing fishing licenses. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 45%

of Indiana's veterans are near, at, or over 65 years of age. Assuming that only the remaining 55% of veterans with service-connected disabilities must pay fishing licence fees, the number of veterans affected would be 1,688 ($3,069 * 55\%$).

This bill reduces the yearly resident fishing license fee for qualifying veterans from \$8.75 to \$2.75. The annual revenue loss from this license category would be equal to the number of veterans affected multiplied by the revenue loss per license, or \$10,128 ($1,688 * \6).

The Division of Fish and Wildlife's reports that 77,120 resident yearly hunting-only licenses were sold in 1997. Given this total, roughly 1% of Indiana's population obtained a yearly hunting-only license. If the same percentage of veterans with service-connected disabilities obtain hunting licenses, 438 individuals would be eligible for the reduced fee. This bill reduces the current resident yearly hunting fee for qualified individuals from \$8.75 to \$2.75, or a reduction of \$6. The annual revenue loss would be equal to the number of veterans affected multiplied by the revenue loss per license, or \$2,628 ($438 * \6).

The Division of Fish and Wildlife reports that 113,851 yearly resident licenses for both hunting *and* fishing were sold in 1997. Roughly 2% of Indiana's population obtained a license for both hunting and fishing. If the same percentage of veterans with service-connected disabilities obtain hunting licenses, 877 individuals would be eligible for reduced fees. This bill reduces the current resident yearly hunting fee for qualified individuals from \$13.75 to \$2.75, or a reduction of \$11. The annual revenue loss would be equal to the number of veterans affected multiplied by the revenue loss per license, or \$9,647 ($877 * \11).

The total annual revenue loss from the thee affected categories of licenses is \$22,403 (\$10,128 + \$2,628 + \$9,647). Revenues collected from fishing and hunting license fees are deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund. The operating budgets of the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Law Enforcement are funded through the Fish and Wildlife Fund. The proposal would decrease the amount of revenue in this fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill also provides that clerks of the Circuit Court who are currently authorized representatives of the DNR shall issue all hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses. This provision has no fiscal impact. It clarifies that those clerks currently selling licenses shall continue to do so, and if clerks are not currently set up to sell licenses, they will not be required to do so.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources.

Local Agencies Affected: Clerks of the Circuit Court.

Information Sources: John Brinkley, State Service Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, (317) 232-3919; Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNR (317) 232-4080; US Census Bureau.